



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 5, 2006

S. 3591

High-Performance Green Buildings Act of 2006

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on September 13, 2006*

SUMMARY

S. 3591 would authorize the appropriation of \$25 million over the 2008-2012 period to make federal buildings more energy efficient, develop building technologies that minimize adverse effects on the natural environment to build structures known as “green buildings,” and provide environmental grants to schools. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 3591 would cost \$4 million in 2008 and about \$20 million over the 2008-2011 period. An additional \$5 million in outlays would fall in 2012. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 3591 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The bill would benefit state and local governments, and any costs to those governments would result from complying with grant conditions.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 3591 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 300 (natural resources and environment) and 800 (general government).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Office of High-Performance Green Buildings						
Authorization Level	0	3	3	3	3	3
Estimated Outlays	0	2	3	3	3	3
Healthy High-Performance Schools						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	1	1	1	1	1
Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	1	1	1
Demonstration Project						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	1	1	1	1	1
Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	1	1	1
Other Provisions						
Estimated Authorization Level	*	*	*	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	*	*	*	0	0	0
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	*	5	5	5	5	5
Estimated Outlays	*	4	5	5	5	5

NOTE: * = less than \$500,000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 3591 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2007 and that amounts authorized will be appropriated beginning in 2008. Estimates of outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs. S. 3591 would authorize the appropriation of \$25 million over the 2008-2012 period. These amounts would be used to make federal buildings more energy efficient, develop green buildings, and provide environmental grants to schools.

Office of High-Performance Green Buildings

Title I would authorize the appropriation of \$3 million annually over the 2008-2012 period to establish an Office of High-Performance Green Buildings within the General Services Administration to coordinate and promote green building technologies within the federal government. The office would conduct research, outreach programs, and coordinate budget

and procurement issues. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the office activities would cost about \$15 million over the 2008-2012 period.

Healthy High-Performance Schools

Title II would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million over the 2008-2012 period for the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants to states to assist schools in addressing environmental issues. CBO expects that \$1 million would be provided each year over the 2008-2012 period. Appropriation of the authorized amount would result in discretionary spending of \$5 million over the 2008-2012 period.

Demonstration Project

Title IV would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million over the 2008-2012 period to the Office of High-Performance Green Buildings to fund a demonstration project of a federal building in Vermont that employs green building technologies. CBO expects that \$1 million would be provided each year over the 2008-2012 period. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amount, CBO estimates that the project would cost \$5 million over the 2008-2012 period.

Other Provisions

Title III would require the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to revise procurement regulations to encourage the use of energy efficient and green building technologies. In addition, the legislation would require the Government Accountability Office to provide reports to the Congress on the impact of the legislation. CBO estimates that these provisions would cost less than \$500,000 a year.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 3591 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Title II would authorize \$5 million in grants to build environmentally friendly schools and to remedy environmental problems at current schools. Any costs to state, local, or tribal governments would result from complying with grant conditions.

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